



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release December 17, 1986

Phil Million 202/343-5634

PRESIDENT REAGAN, SECRETARY HODEL HAIL ART GIFT TO NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Interior Secretary Don Hodel today joined President Reagan in praising noted Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman for donating a print to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a wildlife print and stamp campaign next year to benefit conservation projects.

Bateman and Foundation Board Chairman Thomas G. McMillan presented the first print of the painting, "Pride of Autumn," to President Reagan during a White House ceremony November 20, 1986. The painting portrays a Canada goose standing on shore, having just emerged from a lake.

"Robert Bateman's new painting is a beautiful addition to the world of wildlife art," Secretary Hodel said. "By donating the print to the Foundation, Robert Bateman demonstrates once again the depth of his commitment to the wild things of this planet that his art celebrates so eloquently. Those who buy this print from the Foundation will experience two-fold pleasure in knowing they possess a beautiful work of art and that their purchase will help fund important wildlife conservation projects."

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was established by Congress in 1984 and President Reagan signed it into law that same year. It is an independent, private conservation organization established to protect and enhance the Nation's wildlife, fish, and plant resources by working in association with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State wildlife agencies, and private conservation groups.

In this, its first year of fulltime operation, the Foundation has raised over \$650,000 to support various wildlife enhancement projects.

Current Foundation projects include the restoration of the bald eagle in 14 States; public education activities supporting Chesapeake Bay wildlife resoration programs; bighorn sheep translocation and restoration efforts in the Rocky Mountains; public education to curb the illegal importation of wildlife products; a waterfowl banding project in California's Central Valley; acquisition of rare plant habitat in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge; a study on the status of the jaguar in Central and South America; and the development of a permanent river corridor protection program in upstate New York.

(over)

In 1987, the Foundation plans to initiate a satellite tracking research project to benefit the world's most endangered sea turtle--the Kemp's ridley--in the Gulf of Mexico. The Foundation also plans to support striped bass restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay, wetland protection in San Francisco Bay, and preservation of sensitive shorebird nesting areas on the Atlantic Coast's beaches and barrier islands. Funds raised by sales of the "Pride of Autumn" print and stamp will be used to fund these and other programs.

For more information on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's limited-edition print and stamp program, contact Charles H. Collins, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, at 202/343-1040.

-DOI-

Note to Editors: 8" x 10" black-and-white glossy prints may be obtained on loan from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Room 2626, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20240; telephone: 202/343-1040.

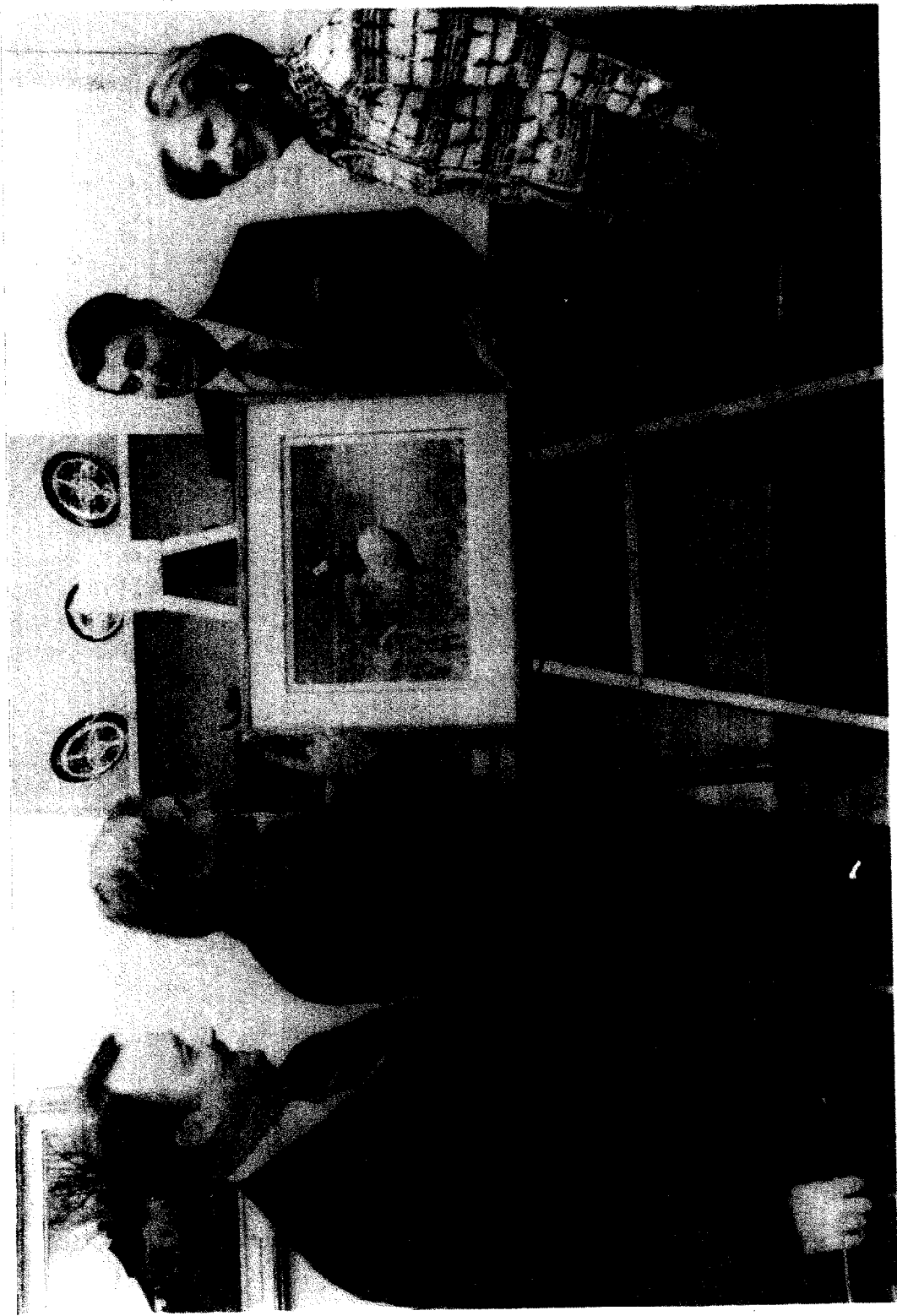


photo of the President, McMillan, Bateman, and Pickens

President Reagan views the original painting, "Pride of Autumn," with (left to right) Thomas G. McMillan, Chairman of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; artist Robert Bateman; and Mrs. T. Boone Pickens, Foundation Board member. The President was presented with Print No. 1 from the painting on November 20, 1986. Bateman, a world-renowned artist and conservationist, is donating prints from "Pride of Autumn" to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Beginning February 10, 1987, they will be sold through art dealers in the U.S. and Canada as the Foundation's first conservation print series to generate funds for the Foundation's conservation programs.



PRIDE OF AUTUMN - CANADA GOOSE © 1986 Robert Bateman.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Conservation Print and Stamp

Published by Mill Pond Press, Inc., Venice, FL 33595.

Photo of Print Itself

"Pride of Autumn" is the most recent work of world-renowned artist Robert Bateman. It depicts a Canada goose that has recently emerged from the water and is standing in a classic pose at water's edge. Bateman donated the printing rights to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The prints will be sold through art dealers in the U.S. and Canada beginning February 10, 1987 with all proceeds to be used to fund the Foundation's conservation programs. Print No. 1 of "Pride of Autumn," the Foundation's first conservation print, was presented to President Reagan on November 20, 1986.